

Library Welcomes 30th Class of Junior Fellows

Fellows will collaborate virtually across four time zones from Seattle to San Juan, Puerto Rico
Library of Congress Gazette, Volume 31, No. 21 May 29, 2021 by Leah Knobel

On Monday, the Library welcomed its 30th class of junior fellows. Over the next 10 weeks, the 42 undergraduate and graduate students will collaborate with Library specialists on projects supporting the Library's mission, collections and services. For most of the past 30 years, the competitive program has offered students the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., to work in-person with the Library's unique holdings and expert staff while experiencing everything the nation's capital has to offer. Of course, the latter is not true for this year's class of fellows. The program is being offered as a virtual internship for the second year in a row, consistent with restrictions and health guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. So, on Monday, this year's class of fellows began their internship by logging on to their computers for orientation. They were greeted



Jacob Kowall (clockwise from left), Emmeline Kaser, Darshni Patel and Hannah Pfeifer signed into this week's orientation from their home offices.

by Library leaders, including Ryan Ramsey, the Library's chief of staff. Joe Cappello, chief human capital officer in the Human Capital Directorate (HCD); and Kimberly Powell, chief of talent recruitment and outreach in HCD. "Programs like Junior Fellows allow Library staff to work collaboratively across the institution to widen the path of cultural and intellectual engagement with emerging professionals," Powell told the Gazette in advance of the orientation. The fellows will collaborate across four time zones on 26 projects that explore Library collections and programs and enhance their public accessibility. The projects are based in 17 divisions located in the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Copyright Office, the Law Library, Library Services, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the Office of the Librarian. "The Library has made certain that the Junior Fellows program could, despite a pandemic, continue as planned so that we could offer participants a vibrant and meaningful experience," Ramsey said. "The fact the program continues uninterrupted is a testament to the high value the Library places on the program and its participants." On July

21, the term will culminate with a virtual display day. What was once a one-day public exhibition of the fellows' work has been transformed into a completely virtual experience of video presentations prepared by the fellows.

A compilation of the videos and related archived content will be available on a portal for the public to access. The internship concludes on July 30.

As it does every year — albeit with workarounds to accommodate the virtual space — the Internship and Fellowship Programs (IFP) section of HCD will offer professional development opportunities for fellows beyond their assigned projects. IFP manages the Junior Fellows program. Fellows will have the chance to interact with alumni of the program, as well as Library leaders, including Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney and Ramsey.

In addition, twice weekly sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays will foster greater knowledge of Library collections, programs and services and help fellows develop skills for securing employment. "Designing educational and career experiences has been key to intern engagement," program manager Eric Eldritch said. "It's great to hear from interns from past years about the continued impact of the program on their career paths."

The Junior Fellows program is made possible by a gift from the late James Madison Council member Nancy Glanville Jewell through the Glanville Family Foundation and the Knowledge Navigators Trust Fund and by an investment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The members of the 2021 class of junior fellows (with hometown, school and assignment) are:

Joshua Ortiz Baco; San Juan, Puerto Rico; University of Texas at Austin; OCIO.

Rebekah Bain; Glendale, Wisconsin; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Manuscript Division (MSS).

Karla Roig Blay; San Juan, Puerto Rico; University of Texas at Austin; Latin American Central European (LACE).

Kimmy Chancellor; Waco, Texas; Texas A&M University; Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD).

Amal Charara; Chantilly, Virginia; East Central University; Science, Technology and Business Division (ST&B).

Bennett Comerford; Bend, Oregon; Harvard University; Asian Division (AD).

Samantha Correia; Attleboro, Massachusetts; Simmons University; Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE).

Sean DiLeonardi; Peoria, Illinois; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; ST&B.

Rae Enzie; Mansfield, Mississippi; Simmons University; CLLE. Morgan Gibbs; Lewis Center, Ohio; Ohio State University; CLLE.

Maggie Jensen; Fort Worth, Texas; Catholic University of America; MSS. Abigail Jorja Tick; Syracuse, Ne; Syracuse University; OCIO.

Emmeline Kaser; Ridgefield, Connecticut; University of Michigan; Digital Collections and Management Services.

Sonia Kelly; Irvine, California; College of William and Mary and University of St. Andrews; CRS.

Sara Kittleson; Salem, Oregon; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Latin American Central European (LACE).

Alyssa Sarah Knapp; Carmel, California; University of California, Los Angeles; National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC).

Joe Kolodrubetz; Highland, Maryland; George Washington University Law School; Law Library.

Jacob Kowall; District of Columbia; Simmons University; DCMS.

Talia Lieber; Rockville, Maryland; University of California, Los Angeles; African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED).

Michael Teresa Mellifera; District of Columbia; Catholic University of America; Law Library.

Shlomit Menashe; Seattle; University of Maryland; AMED.

Kate Mitchell; Highland Park, New Jersey; Rutgers University; NAVCC.

Liam Josef Morrissey Sims; District of Columbia; University of Pittsburgh; Latin American Central European (LACE).

Mary Murdock; Eldersburg, Maryland; University of Maryland, College Park; CLLE.

Daniel Ng; West Windsor, New Jersey; University of Texas at Austin; Asian Division.

Amy Olson; Seattle; Smith College; Collections Management Division.

Darshni Patel; Piscataway, New Jersey; George Mason University; OCIO.

Hannah Spring Pfeifer; Liverpool, New York; Villanova University; ST&B.

Alex Reese; College Station, Texas; University of Texas at Austin; DCMS.

Tania María Ríos Marrero; San Juan, Puerto Rico; University of Washington iSchool; ST&B.

Sarah Rounsville; Rio Rancho, New Mexico; University of Notre Dame; CRS.

Echo Rue; Ashburn, Virginia; University of South Florida; CLLE.

Rachel Scott; Webster, New York; State University of New York, Brockport; CLLE.

Hilary Shiue; Astoria, New York; University of Maryland, College Park; DCMS.

Finn Smith; Easton, Pennsylvania; Vassar College; CLLE.

Shannon Sommers; Brooklyn, New York; Yale University; CRS.

Pariti Sutaria; Glassboro, New Jersey; Rutgers University Camden; ST&B.

Joseph A. Torres-González; Arecibo, Puerto Rico; The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY); ST&B.

Heidi Vance; Longwood, Florida; Northumbria University; PRTD.

Sophie Vogelsang; Haslett, Michigan; Vanderbilt University; PRTD.

Emily Zerrenner; Eau Claire, Illinois; University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign; OCIO.

Yuqing Zhou; Highland Park, New Jersey; Rutgers University; Copyright Office. ▀